



**WUPPERTAL - BETHEL  
EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
25th ANNIVERSARY**



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BETHEL  
WUPPERTAL

STUDENT EXCHANGE

25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY





## BRIDGES OVER TROUBLED WATERS

---

*25 lines in memory of Professor Inge Heuser  
And with thanks to Erna Fast and all those  
Who were and still are building bridges:  
From Bethel to Wuppertal  
And from here to there*

There was a time when waves of hate and ignorance  
Rolled over many million innocents: the people, starved  
And yellow-starred and men with pink triangles,  
Suffocating in the coldest heat, then drowned  
In seas of shameless blindness, inhumanity.

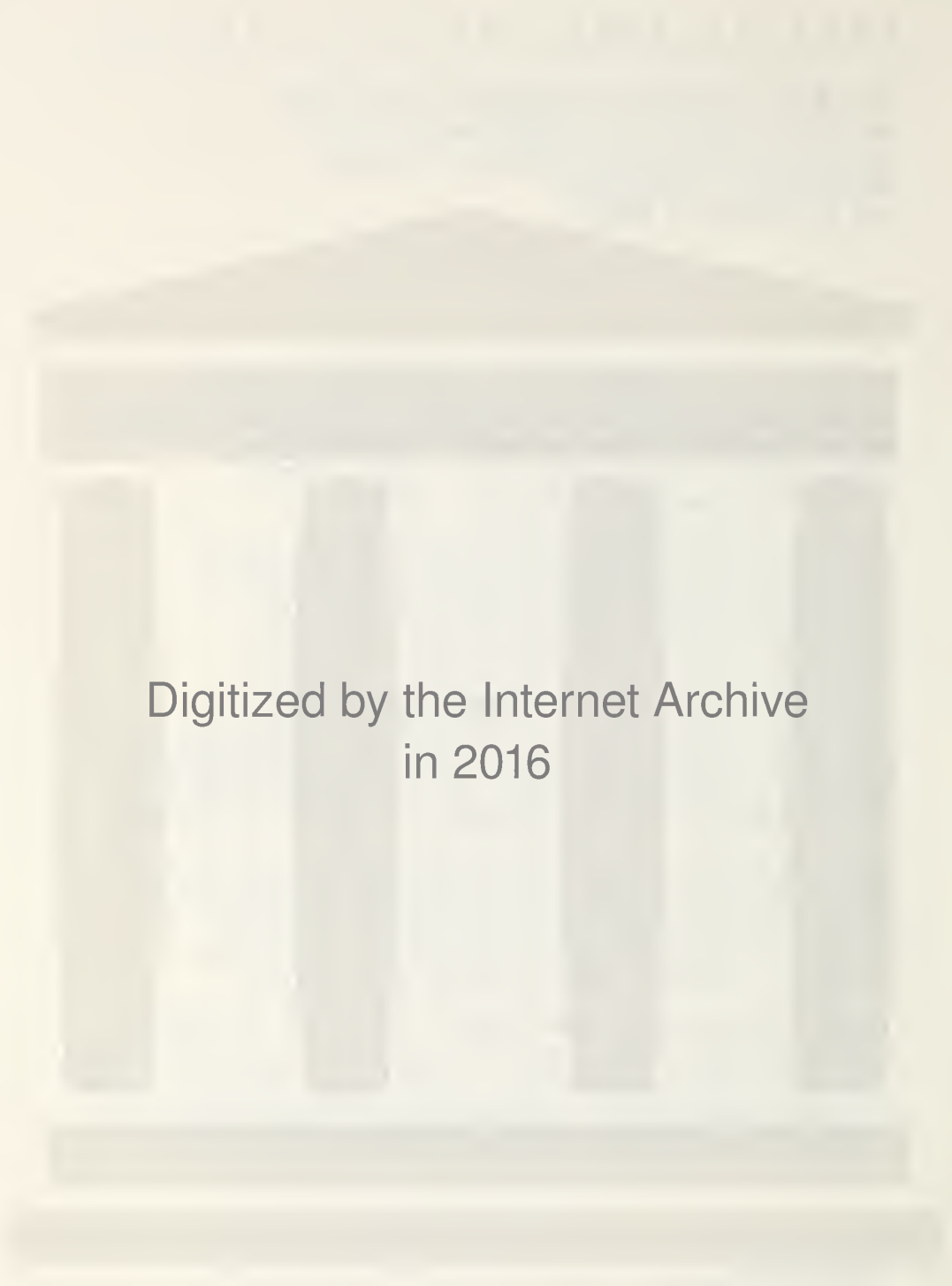
There was a time when waves of unforgiving memory  
Rolled over many million innocents, including  
All the young, and swore revenge, eternally.  
But there were silver linings, too, and doves  
Out of the Kansan blue who brought some hope.

There was a time when troubled waters calmed,  
When unexpected bridges, built by U.S. Mennonites,  
Made for exchanges of ideas, of parcels and of people:  
Destruction and despair gave way to friendship deep  
And invitations and encouragement to study life abroad.

There is a time when Germans and Americans sit down  
And do reflect on life since World War II, of changes  
Which have come about in twenty years and five,  
Of full co-operation and of caring for those others,  
Brothers, sisters, whom one never knew before.

There might be times when waves of hate and ignorance  
Roll over Anabaptists, over those who won't or can't comply  
With compromise, conformism, "normality," mediocrity; then  
All the bridges over troubled waters interlock and link,  
Knowing that UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL - all of us.

*Henrik Eger  
29.6./1.7. 1976*



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## BRÜCKEN ÜBER BEWEGTE WASSER

Es gab eine Zeit  
in der Wellen von Wut und Wahnsinn  
Millionen Unschuldiger überrollten:  
Hungernde,  
Gelbgesternte,  
Rosamarkierte  
erstickten in kaltem Hass,  
ertranken in Meeren von  
blinder  
schamloser  
Unmenschlichkeit.

Es gab eine Zeit  
in der Wellen von Wundtheit  
Millionen Unschuldiger überrollten:  
der Jugend  
ewige Vergeltung schworen.  
Aber  
auch Hoffnung brach auf wie Taubenflug  
aus Kansan Blau.

Eine Zeit brach an,  
in der sich bewegte Wasser beruhigten,  
in der Brücken aus Händen wuchsen:  
für Gedanken, Pakete und Menschen,  
für Freundschaft und Begegnungen,  
für Ermutigungen, Leben neu zu erfahren.

Es gibt eine Zeit  
in der Deutsche und Amerikaner  
über Leben und Krieg nachdenken,  
Veränderungen überwachen,  
Gemeinsames entdecken und  
Verantwortung tragen für  
Brüder und Schwestern,  
deren Gesicht sie nicht kannten.

Es könnte eine Zeit geben,  
in der Wellen von Wut und Wahnsinn  
alle die überrollen, die  
sich nicht anpassen können,  
sich nicht fühlen lernten wie viele -  
dann!  
mögen sich alle Brücken dieser Welt  
zusammenfügen, uns zu tragen:  
Dickundmichunduns.  
Eins müssen wir sein,  
damit wir nicht fallen  
in bewegte Wasser unter uns.

*Übertragen von Hanna Wehner*





*For a new university it is extremely important for many reasons to establish international contacts with similar institutions, most of all to provide possibilities of exchange for scholars, teachers, and students. To achieve this has, therefore, been one of our major objectives during the first four years of this university's existence. We have introduced official contacts, for instance, with the University of Saint-Etienne (France) and with the University of Aston at Birmingham (England). Moreover, through the exertions of individual scholars and departments, Wuppertal University has become integrated in the closely-woven network of international academic relations. Such contacts, sometimes on the level of personal acquaintance, sometimes in the form of official contracts or agreements, have also made it possible for students from Wuppertal to study in other countries and have brought students from many nations to Wuppertal (at the moment, there are students from 46 countries studying at this university).*

*These contacts, however, would have been much more difficult to achieve had there not been a basis of established international relations in existence before this university was founded in 1972. Clearly one of the most important of these is the informal exchange agreement with Bethel College which goes back to the days of the Wuppertal College of Education. It is with a deep sense of gratitude therefore that we acknowledge the assistance that our students have received at Bethel, and express our pleasure at having students from Bethel with us. In a double sense, this exchange scheme has deeply moving connotations for us; on the one hand, because it had its beginnings in simple Christian charity during our country's darkest period, and on the other hand, because it is associated with the name of one of our most distinguished colleagues, Professor Inge Heuser, whose untimely death was such a loss to this university.*

*We can, perhaps, consider it an expression of the spirit of this exchange programme when students from Bethel (as happens to be the case this semester) take part in a German seminar on American literature, discussing with their German friends the deep humanity symbolized in the relationship between Huck Finn and Nigger Jim, floating down the River of Time on the raft, their precarious temporary refuge.*

*We cannot honour those people who have been responsible for this exchange scheme in a better way than by endeavouring to ensure its continuity, perhaps even to improve it, in the next 25 years.*

*Heinz Kosok*

Dr. Heinz Kosok  
Professor of English Literature,  
also on behalf of  
Prof. Dr. Rainer Gruenter  
Rektor (President) of  
the University of Wuppertal

When I first came to Bethel as a freshman 24 years ago, Rudy Wiemann, the Wuppertal student, lived down the hall from me. Rudy was the second of a, by now, long and continuous line of Wuppertal students. Being an unsophisticated farm boy from a small isolated community, I remember clearly the impact of living next to a "foreign student". Through my four years at Bethel the student body each year raised the money necessary to bring the new Wuppertal student to campus. One of the favorite methods of raising the necessary funds was for the whole student body to forego one or more evening meals. During the course of my years at Bethel I became close friends with several of the Wuppertal students. This experience was a very important part of my undergraduate education.

It is a remarkable fact that the Wuppertal exchange program is now in its 25th year. This long history may help us to take this program for granted and fail to recognize its importance. The opportunity to learn first hand of other people's culture and life style is an essential and valuable part of a liberal education. The Wuppertal program has helped make this happen for many generations of Bethel students.



Marion Deckert  
Dean of Instruction

As Viewed From The Bethel College Alumni Office

The Wuppertal-Bethel Exchange Program reaches another milestone as its 25th Anniversary is observed this year. It is indeed commendable that the program has continued for a quarter of a century.

I was not around when the program began, and consequently I can take no credit for its origin. Neither can I take any credit for its successful continuation. I can, therefore, view it objectively and speak unhesitatingly of its values.

What does the program mean by way of significant values, as I see it?

It means that students from America have had the opportunity to live in a German environment and culture and study in a German School.

It means that students from Germany have had the opportunity to live in an American environment and culture and study in an American School.

It means that friendships have been developed across the ocean which otherwise would never have had an opportunity to develop.

It means that Bethel College now numbers among its Alumni Association membership, persons who would never have become alumni of Bethel if this program did not exist. (Bethel counts as its alumni all who have completed at least one full year at Bethel College - a minimum of 24 semester hours)

It means that American students have acquired a new interest in, and appreciation for, Germany and its people; and the German students have also acquired the same kind of interest and appreciation for America and its people.

It means, therefore, that bridges of relationship have indeed been built between the two countries.

*Roland R. Goering*

Roland R. Goering  
Director of Alumni and Church Relations.



Der Dekan

des Fachbereichs Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften

Prof. Dr. Horst Prießnitz

Gesamthochschule Wuppertal, 56 Wuppertal 2, Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Weg 1

For a newly founded university like Wuppertal it is of paramount importance to establish and foster international contacts with similar institutions abroad.

It is, therefore, a pleasant duty for me to confirm that the Bethel-Wuppertal student exchange program, which dates back to the personal initiative of the late Professor Inge Heuser, is one of the most valuable arrangements the English Department of our Faculty can be proud of.

As one of our major concerns is the education of future teachers this exchange program offers our students a unique opportunity to come into closest contact with the people of a country whose civilization and literature play a vital part in our university curriculum.

We express our gratitude for the assistance and hospitality that our students have received at Bethel. At the same time we should like you to know that it is a great pleasure for us to have students from Bethel with us in Wuppertal.

It is only to be hoped that the success of this transatlantic partnership will continue during the next twenty-five years.

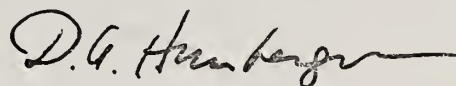


Gesamthochschule Wuppertal  
Fachbereich Sprach- u. Literaturwissenschaften  
- Der Dekan -

Before I speak about the exchange program as such, I want to thank Erna Fast. Without Erna there would have been no reunion, and no booklet. She carried on all correspondence with former participants, and although she refused the title of editor, she in fact has prepared this booklet, with a little help from others. She has done a tremendous amount of work, for which all of us are very grateful.

From the standpoint of a college teacher of German, an exchange program like ours with Wuppertal is invaluable. It affords our majors (although this is not a prerequisite for participation in the program) and future teachers of German the opportunity to live in Germany for a year. I think all of you realize the advantages of this. And the students from Wuppertal provide our students with really current information about life in Germany, something with which textbooks by their very nature cannot deal adequately. They also bring with them attitudes and experiences different from those of many Bethel students and play therefore an important role in the education of our students here at Bethel.

Although it might seem on the surface that our two countries are becoming more and more alike, differences remain. There are thus many things we can learn from each other, and this, I feel, is the most important and lasting aspect of the Wuppertal-Bethel Exchange Program.



Prof. Deborah Hunsberger

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(1st paragraph above included under duress. Still, it gives me a chance to add a personal note. What I've been able to do toward this anniversary celebration (and DO TAKE NOTE on the last page of the committee that is really responsible) was done gladly, willingly, and - - thankfully.

Why? Because here is something which, for me, exemplifies "a grain of mustard seed"-faith in its success was indeed small at the beginning; continuity was never guaranteed, special funding through grants never requested, yet the enthusiasm and commitment of students and administration at both schools have kept "this thing" going - and the hopes expressed in this booklet may well bring about a 50th anniversary in 2001! ef)



## GESAMTHOCHSCHULE WUPPERTAL

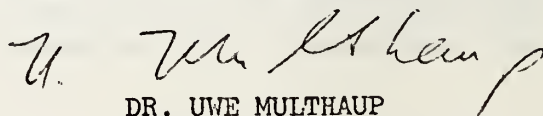
I first heard about the Bethel-Wuppertal exchange when I came to Wuppertal in 1973 as Assistant to Prof. Inge Heuser. From her I learned about the origin of this program which, I believe, had its roots in CARE Parcels sent from Bethel to Wuppertal after World War II. So in the beginning there was practical Christian charity on the one side, and, no doubt, grateful acceptance of such charity offered in dark hours of both moral and economic disaster on the other side.

Today the nature of the Bethel-Wuppertal relationship has changed. What at first was the one-sided reception of benefits has become a co-operation with equal obligations on both partners. I look upon this partnership not only as a highly useful institution, but also as a good tradition which the new "Gesamthochschule Wuppertal" has inherited from the former "Pädagogische Hochschule". And in addition to that I regard it as a personal trust we owe to Prof. Inge Heuser. Without the considerable personal commitment to the cause of furthering mutual understanding and international friendships which she, together with the other originators of this project on the Bethel side, made, we would not be able to look back on 25 years of the Bethel-Wuppertal partnership; nor on the many valuable spin-offs of this program, such as the memorable visits of the Bethel Choir in Wuppertal.

A recent reunion of a large number of our former "students to Bethel" demonstrated the lasting impression which the year at Bethel had made on them, so that even after 25 years they felt they had good cause to celebrate the coming anniversary. They all agreed that their year at Bethel had been a very useful experience for them, and they all liked to think back to it.

In continuing the exchange program we not only hope to honor the memory and ideals of the initiators of the partnership, but also to further some very real interests. We are concerned with the education of young people, and with the teaching of English to students, the majority of whom become teachers. We need good teachers of English with a good command of the English language, and what could serve this better than an opportunity to live 12 months in a foreign country? We also need teachers with an open mind, with practical experience in a country that has close cultural, economic, and political links with our own country. Again, what could serve better than an exchange such as this? The fact that recently this exchange has grown to two instead of one student from each country is sufficient proof of the importance that the authorities attribute to this exchange program.

An anniversary like this should not only be occasion to look back, but also to look forward. We are determined to do our best so that the partnership is continued as successfully in the next 25 years as in the past, and to insure this we must always be ready to consider improvements. We will gratefully accept any suggestions in that direction.

  
DR. UWE MULTHAUP  
Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Weg 1  
5600 Wuppertal 2

## HOW IT ALL STARTED

Letters and notes in a file more than 25 years old reveal that here was no nicely-organized, well-coordinated effort to start a project with a future. Rather, there was a tenuousness, a sort of groping for something that would show the deep caring that students at Bethel College felt as they learned more and more about the terrible aftermath of World War II.

This caring found expression in special workdays, car washes, lean meals. It was spearheaded by the Student Christian Association, strongly supported by faculty and administration. However, what bothered them was the anonymity of the contributions earned this way; they wanted to show they cared in a more specific, directly personal way.

How was it that Wuppertal became the school to form this exchange with Bethel? MCCers were working throughout Germany in those early 50's, and it was in cooperation with some of the leaders of the MCC and with the Evangelische Studentengemeinde (Germany's SCA), where at the time I was secretary for the Pädagogische Hochschulen, that the choice of Wuppertal was made.

Why Wuppertal? Here, like Bethel, students were preparing to become teachers. Here, too, the relative size of the school at the time made it seem more compatible with Bethel's setting than a university such as Heidelberg, Hannover, or Göttingen - which were considered. Then the fact that Wuppertal at that time had opened its doors to many refugee students played a definite part in the decision. And finally, the status of its director, Professor Oskar Hammelsbeck, was a determining factor. Professor Hammelsbeck was known as an outstanding leader both in the field of pedagogy and in postwar church circles. Yes, it was of no small significance that Prof. Hammelsbeck had also during the war taken a strong, courageous stand in the writing of the Barmen Confession.

To "build bridges of understanding" - how often and from diverse sources does this expression occur! First this turned into clothes for refugees, simple dormitory furniture and school equipment that was much needed. That was in 1950 and '51. Then in the fall of '51 Fritz Potreck arrived on Bethel campus - and the SCA's initial fund of \$550 had its first personal, truly personal, recipient. And in two short years, after Rudy Wiemann followed Fritz, the exchange became a real exchange when Annegret Völker came to Bethel and Otto Driedger became the first student to study at Wuppertal.

The rest of the story is your story. You have made it work far beyond first expectations and the hopes of those who worked so hard to provide the first financial support for this program.

- Erna J. Fast





1951-52

*Fritz Potreck*  
*Headmaster, Elementary School*

*Agnes Miegel Weg 9*  
*5620 Velbert 75*

My greatest exchange experience...I found people in a country much different from ours willing to find a partnership. It will remain unforgettable for me as a German that I was integrated into the "Bethel family" so soon after the 2nd World War. The Mennonite way of living, the basic Christian convictions, the endeavor for peace are strongly impressed on my memory. I can never forget Christmas 1951 - celebrating it with my roommate's family; it showed me a kind of practical way of Christian life.

Because of these benefits - and there are many more - I would like to see this exchange program continued. Also, it provides the possibility to learn school systems and political, cultural, and economic issues of the country. Last, not least, I would never have become an English teacher if I had not had this chance to study at Bethel.

1952-53

*Rudolf Wiemann*  
*Oberstudienrat, Röntgen Gymnasium*

*52 Agnes-Miegel Str.*  
*5600 Wuppertal 2*

After my return from the States, September '53, I started to teach at a Wuppertal elementary school. Between 1956 and '61 I continued to teach, at the same time continuing my English studies at Cologne University in order to qualify as an English teacher.

In 1961 Frau Professor Heuser asked me to become her assistant in English at Wuppertal Pädagogische Hochschule. I was happy to follow this call, and years of mutually cooperative work began. Prof. Heuser is the one who must never be forgotten. She helped and promoted and planned and worked for the Bethel-Wuppertal exchange in ways beyond description.

It was on the first morning after my arrival that I left Goessel Hall where I roomed with 21 other students, crossed that I-don't-remember-its-name road and entered Bethel campus past Leisy and Kliever homes, Mem Hall, the museum, the library until I finally ended up in front of the Administration Building. All the time I had been wondering what in the world all those hundreds of cars, neatly lined up along the campus road, had come for; this was a completely unusual impression for me, a German student, seven years after WW II. On the Ad Building steps I was greeted by a tall man whom I had never seen before. He addressed me: "Hi, Rudy. Welcome to Bethel." I was completely dumbfounded, unable to say a word, when that friendly gentleman broke my embarrassing silence and said, "I'm the President, David Wedel. People around here call me Prexi." We had a nice chat on that fine September morning, seated on the Ad Building steps, me the student beside the President! Then finally I could not help asking that ominous question, on my lips all along, about all the cars I had seen: "Is there a meeting of the Kansas government being held at Bethel?" Dr. Wedel seemed to laugh his head off, and then, after recovering, he said: "Oh, no; it's just the kids' cars. Everyone of them has his own car."



Eldo Neufeld and Kenny Hiebert I remember best; they helped me in every way to adjust to dorm and campus life. Both of them had quite a good command of Low German due to their family backgrounds. Still, Kenny was not content with what he was able to express in German and so, wanting to improve on it, we agreed that I would teach him, at least twice a week for an hour or so. We studied various German texts from books and newspapers, even took to classical literature, interspersing our studies with little poems once in a while. And since Kenny was a brilliant student he made quite good progress. We studied the Goethe poem, Gefunden, which begins like this:

*Ich ging im Walde so flür mich hin,  
Und nichts zu suchen, das war mein Sinn.*

*Im Schatten sah ich ein Blümchen stehn ...*

At our last session Kenny recited this wonderfully well. His only difficulty were the umlauts and those tongue-breaking guttural ch's . . . Well, as customary, when the Graymaroons were passed out and around for more or less serious remarks, I read this entry in mine:

*R-r-rudolf: Ich ging im Walde,  
Im Schatten sah ich Rudolf stehen.  
Nun stand der Rudolf im Sonnenschein.*

.....A few remarks about that baffling business of dating which played not just a minor role in campus life. At 22 I had developed quite a tender feeling towards a charming Junior girl from Pretty Prairie and had boldly dated her in the first week after my arrival. This obviously having been such a wonderful experience, a few days later I asked her again for a Dairy Queen trip downtown. I was in my seventh heaven, and so, not caring about any other girl on campus tho' charming and worth a date they might have been, I was just about to ask my PP gal for a third date in a row. I was lucky to be warned by a caring fellow-Bethelite. This is what he said: "Be careful, Rudy, never date a girl three times running. Make sure there is a different one between, at least after the second date. Otherwise you might be trapped into having to propose . . ."

Every so often, with the reminiscences of Bethel coming back to mind and finding verbal expression, say, around the dinner table, my children were enthused about the idea of perhaps one day following their Daddy's route to Bethel College. I do hope these plans might come true; also, that I might be favored to visit my old alma mater, Bethel College, to which I owe so much in my life.

. . . COULD IT BE THAT RUDY SPEAKS FOR OTHERS WHEN HE LISTS THE FOLLOWING AS THE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM HIS YEAR AS EXCHANGE STUDENT AT BETHEL? . . .

- widening my scope of understanding people from other nations, their problems and ideas, their ways of looking at things, thus helping to overcome so many prejudices which had loomed in my mind for seven years after the war;
- establishing lasting friendships which have enriched my life boundlessly;
- experiencing the thrill of a growing perfection in the handling of the English language; thus taking up further studies toward a degree and finally resulting in what I am now: an extremely happy and content teacher of English as a foreign language.

1953-54

Otto Driedger  
 Assoc. Professor of Social Work  
 University of Regina

3833 Montague St.  
 Regina, Sask. Canada

I received a great many benefits from the program. Experiencing a new cultural context, language and educational system were very meaningful. Gaining friendship with many, some of whom we have been able to visit subsequently, was enriching. Making arrangements for practicum placements for students in Sweden, Britain, New Zealand, the Carribean and other places, convinces me that international educational opportunities continue to be very meaningful and educational for many students.

As a family we visited Europe in 1971 and had a very enjoyable visit with Rudy Wiemann and his family in Wuppertal.

\* \* \*

Annegret Gehlhoff (Völker)  
 Teacher (Problem Children)

Seeweg 11  
 2361 Klein Rönau

In July 1971 we moved north. The main reason for leaving the Köln area was that we (my husband, Gerhard, is teaching too) wanted to learn more about problem children. We answered an advertisement from the "Heilspädagogisches Kinderheim". We have worked in this special school for 5 years now with about 60 children who cannot go to normal schools. They are neglected, retarded, have lost the ability to learn, don't talk, or talk with no end, aggressive, can't adapt - - don't understand the world nor themselves. It is interesting work - but takes time, patience, and nerves.

In 1973 we built a house and enjoy any time off in our home and garden. For vacations we like to go to Scandinavia in our VW-Camper. We saw Fritz and his wife recently, when they were camping not far from here. It was good to talk to him.

My Bethel year has influenced my life - even our work with problem children now, what we think about life, etc. might have been different without Bethel . . . I correspond with Glen and Luetta Harder, Mountain Lake; we visited them for a week in 1970.

1954-55

Lillian Galle  
 Social Worker, Prairie View Mental Health Clinic Newton, Ks. 67114

1315 Vine

I lived in Chicago for 16 years, and contrary to expectations when I went there, I loved the city - full of contradictions.... beautiful, but dirty and ugly; warm and friendly as well as cold and alienating; in fact, it seemed to me to be most anything you wanted it to be or made it to be!

While in Chicago I worked in a private child welfare agency. I'm not married, and for the most part enjoy being single. I am currently into cats and plants, and sometimes think I would prefer a job working with cats and plants, rather than working with people!

Memories of Wuppertal - several things still stand out in my mind: a ski trip to Austria with PA students (I didn't know how to ski and didn't learn much about skiing, but I learned a bit about dancing); as a member of the PA volleyball team; a spring dance at the Wuppertal Zoo and a long walk home with friends very late at night after the dance; many beautiful evenings with friends, which ended with lovely singing of German folk songs. Perhaps most important was the personal growth in several ways that the year gave me . . . I hope this program can continue.

\* \* \*

*Rudolf Stubenrauch*  
Head of TEachers' Seminary, Wuppertal

*Talsperrenstr. 93b*  
5600 Wuppertal 21

In 1974 I completed my study of psychology at Cologne University. The foundation for this "second" field of interest (besides education) was laid at Bethel, by R.C. Kauffman, my favorite teacher. At present my job is supervising lesson-teaching, lecturing about educational psychology and trying to help neurotic people. But the most important benefit I derived from the program is that I learned to know my wife, Mineke, at Bethel (a Dutch music major who back home in Holland lived only 100 miles away). . . I think the program should be continued as it is, providing lots of opportunities to learn to know other people, other ways of living, thinking and doing.

1955-56

*Ruby Baresch (Woelk)*  
Social Worker, Writer

*1621 Poplar*  
Newton, Ks. 67114

At the moment I am working at the Kansas Children's Service League as program co-ordinator of services to children and families; also, I work free-lance teaching behavior modification techniques for weight control and for smoking control; also I write poetry, have edited a poetry mag, published a book of poems, coordinated a poetry workshop for the free university at WSU. I would say that right now life seems to be one great experiment; interesting avenues keep opening and I keep following them.

As to family, I have a daughter age 14 and a son age 13. Divorce is in process.

Of all the many splendid experiences life has offered, the Wuppertal year is still a high point, a real growth experience, as they say nowadays.

\* \* \*

*Elisabeth Rohde (Friedewald)*  
Teacher

*Schachtstr. 90*  
4370 Marl

After my return from Bethel I began teaching in Wuppertal and completed my second exam in 1960. I was organist in my parish and did a lot of music work by singing in an excellent choir and playing the flute. In March 1966 I married the pastor, Klaus Rohde, who at that time was working as editor of a church magazine. When my husband became pastor of a parish in Marl I stopped teaching; in the meantime, also, the three children of his former marriage joined us. Soon a lack of teachers at the gymnasium which our children attended brought the invitation for me to



teach 5th and 6th grade mathematics. Now I'm teaching part-time, but have more interest in music and art.

As the wife of a pastor I also do parish work (both youth and adults). My husband and I participate in workshops of the W.I.L.L. (Workshop Institute for Living/Learning). We are happy about these workshops because they really help us to understand ourselves and other people much better.

There are still many events in my mind when I think about my year at Bethel. I think one of the most important experiences was living together with students from the States and several foreign countries. Thus it was possible to understand other ways of life and thinking. Especially in the house of Dr. R.C. Kauffman I had the chance to discuss, to play games, to take part in singing and playing instruments with fellow students. My understanding of other people and their culture and my growing interest in international questions are benefits I also derived from this exchange experience. I hope this program will go on because I think it is very important that people learn to know each other through personal experience and not only by means of the mass media.

1957-58

*Theodore Zerger*  
*Assoc. Professor of Mathematics*  
*Kansas Wesleyan*

*RR 5, Box 80*  
*Salina, KS 67401*

Except for one year at Kansas State University (1964-65), three years at the University of Oklahoma (1965-68), and one year in El Paso, Texas (1975-76), I have been teaching at Kansas Wesleyan since 1961. My wife is Vera Harder Zerger of Mountain Lake; she is a graduate of Bethel Deaconess School of Nursing and Kansas Wesleyan. We have four children, the oldest being Becky, who is now 15. My hobbies in addition to teaching mathematics are gardening and raising dairy goats.

1958-59

*Janice Sevilla (Waltner)*  
*Librarian (High School)*

*36756 Valley View Dr.*  
*Eastlake, Ohio 44094*

After all these years my Wuppertal experience still stands out as a high point in my life. It influenced me in many ways - one of the most enduring was whetting my appetite for travel. Fortunately, my husband shares this enthusiasm; and since he also teaches, we have our summers free to travel. (This year we are attending a seminar in Africa.)

Among the things I will not forget about Wuppertal are: the Studentenheim, the Aula and the footstomping at the end of a lecture, the Mensa, the Schwimmpool, Herman Denkmal, und-so-weiter . . .

\* \* \*



*Klaus Sowa*  
*Realschullehrer*

*Buchholzen 134a*  
*5632 Wermelskirchen 1*

We have two boys, one 11 and the other 4 years of age. We have built a house and moved in last summer. But there are still so many things to be done and they must be finished before the bad weather starts and winter begins.

When I think back to Bethel and my stay in America, there are so many things I like to remember, but there's one thing of which I am reminded very often: I did some hitchhiking when I stayed in California. But it was very hard to get a lift. Being a student in Germany I was used to hitchhiking all over Europe. And that's how I got to know some English people who are now among our best and oldest friends. Before I came to Bethel I hitchhiked to the World Exhibition in Brussels and was given a lift in an English car. These people invited me to visit them whenever I came to England. So I did when I came back from the U.S. and a real friendship developed. To deepen this friendship we made Mary godmother to our first child.

American students always thought I was speaking a good Oxford English. I thought my English (or English English) was very poor - and it certainly was. But after my stay in the U.S. my English had improved. I was very astonished, after I had been back to Germany for more than a year and forgotten half of what I had learned, that these English friends told me my English had become much better. You can see what English people think about the American language . . . and add to this that these friends do not speak Oxford, but a pure Yorkshire, English.

1959-60

*Dilores Rempel*  
*Reading Specialist*

*7700 W. Glasgow Pl. 15-A*  
*Littleton, Colo. 80123*

Life continues to be very full and interesting for me. I have never gotten around to getting married, but have spent a lot of my time helping raise about 500 children in the U.S. and Europe. After finishing at Bethel, I taught three years in Topeka, Ks. Eager to experience living in a foreign country again, I went to Bristol, England, as an exchange teacher under Fulbright in 1964-65. Then, after a few more years of teaching in Kansas, I returned to Germany in 1968, this time to teach for the American Military System for one year. With hopes of improving my German and live in the Big City, I accepted a job at the John F. Kennedy Schule, a multi-culture, bi-lingual school in Berlin, for three very interesting years.

During those four consecutive years in Europe I had many opportunities to travel to countries such as Greece and Northern Africa, leaving enough yet-unvisited places for future visits. In 1972 I decided it was time to return to the U.S. to further my formal education. I planned to get a degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and go to India or Africa. However, things worked out differently. I got my graduate certificate in TEFL alright, and I use the information daily when working with Vietnamese and Spanish children in my clinic. But, I ended up with an M.A. in reading and now have a very delightful and enriching job as a reading specialist in an elementary school. As I worked with many of the children

in my clinic, I felt a growing need for more information regarding teaching children with learning problems and am currently finishing an M.A. in special education and learning disabilities. I'm thoroughly enjoying Colorado, especially the climate and the mountains, and plan to keep this as my home base for a few more years. Perhaps I will go back to school in a year or two to continue in Psycholinguistics or Psychology, but for now I plan to just enjoy Chinese cooking classes, classes in metaphysics and mind control, and make a return trip to Europe to reunite with many friends during this coming summer.

Highlights that come to mind quite often -- I remember being amazed that a whole country ate like Klaus Sowa, holding their knives in their right hands and their forks in their left...I remember my surprise at hearing small children speak the difficult language of German ...I remember hanging my wash up in the Studentenheim attic, my introduction to Quark, my first speech to the PH students, singing folksongs in the halls between classes; Frau Professor Heuser, field trips with Prof. Brockhaus and Prof. Harder...and I'll never forget yelling "Scheisse!" instead of "Schiesse!" to a team member at an exciting basketball game with Dortmund.

1960-61

*Karen Gilchrist*  
*Clinical Social Worker*

779 N. McComas  
Wichita, KS. 67203

Since graduating from Bethel in 1962, I taught high school English in Halstead for two years, then did some graduate study at Wichita State U. Through friends and my own growing interest in human behavior, I decided to pursue social work. I worked for nearly two years in foster care and adoptions for the Kansas Children's Service League in Wichita. From there I went to graduate school for two years at the University of Denver. Clinical or Psychiatric social work is my chosen field. Since 1968 I have been counseling families, couples, and individuals in problems of living at Family Consultation Service in Wichita.

I have remained single and for the most part find my life rewarding though never free of struggle. For nearly 14 years I lived with Delphine Martens, a Mennonite, Canadian social worker, whose friendship was a source of inspiration and growth for me. Her long struggle with terminal cancer was directly a part of my own struggle with death, loss, faith, and God for the last three years. She died Dec. 17, 1975. This summer I returned to Canada to visit her family.

My German language has grown stiff and rusty, perhaps disintegrated would be better! I find it always an advantage to have been exposed to it since my church and social contacts are primarily with Mennonites. It has been 16 years since I was privileged to go to Wuppertal. It seems like a dream, quite unreal, but I cherish the experience, the friends I made, and the enrichment to my understanding of people and their world.

\* \* \*



*Ursula May (Schumacher)*  
*Elementary School Teacher*

*Marktstr. 52*  
*3428 Duderstadt 1*

After my year at Bethel College I went back to Wuppertal to finish my studies. Then I taught at Dülmen in Westfalia until 1972. My main subjects were Protestant Religious Instruction and English, but I had to teach German, mathematics, physical education, homemaking and cooking, needlework in grades 1-10. I married a medical student in 1966 and had a son, Philipp, born in '67; our daughter Julia was born in 1970. In 1972 we moved to Münster where I taught elementary school (grades 1-4) while my husband finished his special training as gynecologist. In '74 we moved to Duderstadt near the eastern border. I help out in my husband's office and concentrate on household and childraising. Our daughter began school this year; so, for the first time in my life I have some hours every morning to spend just as I like.

Both my husband and I are very interested in the theatre . . we saw a remarkable performance in Milano, Italy of "King Lear" . . in Cologne Peter Hall's interpretation of "Midsummer Night's Dream" . . in Berlin the theatre "Am Halleschen Ufer" . . a weekend in London where we were lucky enough to see "Hamlet". Aside from theatre we love the music of Dave Brubeck . . heard him at the Berlin Jazz Festival in '73 and two years later at Düsseldorf where he played with his sons.

We are concerned about politics and try to stay informed. Here in Duderstadt we are confronted with the special situation of living directly at the border. The strange thing is that our own relatives live across the border. A cousin lives 20 minutes driving time away, but we can only see him with special permission from the local police station, for which we have to apply 4-5 weeks in advance, and when we have it we are thoroughly checked at the border (like immigrants to U.S.!) And you have to pay for the visa. Our cousin is a Roman Catholic and has to suffer from the state; we can help him by our visits because then he can talk freely.

I would really be glad if we could revisit Bethel College again. When I try to remember, I do not see special events but many friendly faces. I remember how everybody tried to help me and even asked whether he or she could help - - Dr. Fretz, Miss Becker, Dr. Graber - - many of the students. I remember that I really was very young and naive and learned a lot which I could evaluate only much later. I guess my sight of the world changed much more than it would have if I had stayed home. I have grown more tolerant toward other people's views - I think that is the most important result of my year there. I would never miss it. By the way: I got to know my husband on the way to the U.S. We traveled with the same Fulbright travel grant on the old "Berlin". This also should be a reason for celebrating!

1961-62

*Hans Sieper*  
*Studienrat*

*Hestertstr. 30*  
*58 Hagen 2*

I am teaching at the Albrecht-Dürer Gymnasium from Sept. 1, '76 on in English and Religious Instruction. I also teach in the evening school. My wife is a teacher, too. We have no children.

I am really glad to hear from the Bethel exchange program again and I hope to keep in touch with your activities. I would appreciate it very much if you continue the program because I got to know so many people and I was able to broaden my experiences. If there is another reunion among German exchangees I would like to go there.

1962-63

*Christiane Mauss (Vesper)*  
*Housewife and Mother; Church Musician*

*Malvenweg 45*  
*5 Köln 80*

As exchange student at Bethel I was classified as a senior and was lucky to be able to complete my studies with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. In 1965 I got married; my husband is a chemist. I taught for a few years. Our daughter Beate is 6 years old, our son Christian is 4. In 1974 I took a two-year course in church music, which I completed with the exam as a "C-Kirchenmusiker". Sometimes I play the organ in surrounding churches when the organist can't be there. My husband and I both are singing in a choir, which right now is practicing Bach's "Weihnachtsoratorium".

What I liked most when I was an exchange student was the emphasis on music. I liked very much the weekly recitals every Thursday afternoon, and I tried never to miss one of them. Then I liked very much the cheerleading at football and basketball games. The games themselves didn't interest me at all. I only went to see the cheerleading.

There was a funny event which I will never forget: one night some guys enclosed a cow in the library. When we saw the poor animal the next morning, it had made dirty all of the room. We students from the philosophy class were the first ones who declared to clean the library room by our own hands. We were very proud that we were the "good ones". The librarian, Miss Krehbiel, asked me if students at Wuppertal did such a bad thing too. I answered: "We don't have cows over there."

I think an exchange with Bethel College is a great experience and it should be continued as it is.

1963-64

*Katrin Kurzhals (Frowein)*  
*Housewife and Mother*

*Wüsterfeld 19*  
*5600 Wuppertal 2*

I can't show around a teacher's certificate but nevertheless I don't think my life is less interesting or worthwhile. After that failure at the PH I started the most successful expedition in my life: I married in '65 and became more and more happy and secure in my life. Within two years my husband Heinz and I were parents of two healthy children, now 10 and 9 years old. Heinz has his own business (wholesale fabrics) and I help during morning hours while the children are at school.

Our daily life is framed to church and community life. We sing in the church choir, I serve as member of the "Presbyterium", and twice a month we have Bible classes in our home.

Bethel had quite an influence in my development into an active Christian. Never before I had experienced such a close community and so many discussions all around and about "Jesus Christ". Still thankful I remember the most friendly attitude toward that German student



who had to leave Bethel so abruptly in all hours of sadness and helplessness. (Called home due to father's sudden death. Ed.) I was sure about my Bethel friends and their prayers . . . in 1971 we revisited Kansas and all our friends - it was great.

One more thing I'll never forget: Pres. John F. Kennedy had been shot while I was an exchange student at Bethel.

\* \* \*

*Robert Pankratz*

*Math. Dept. Chairman, Coronado Senior High*

*Box 254*

*Cascade, Colo. 80809*

Have been teaching math since leaving Bethel; first at Junior High and since 1970 at Coronado. Spent 1972-73 on sabbatical leave at Alaska Methodist University, Anchorage, Alaska.

1964-65

*Henrik Eger*

*Teacher; M.A. Student*

*3 Leam Close, Colchester*

*Essex, England*

"This boy is never going to learn English!" my mother was told before I had to leave grammar school in Wuppertal. Paradise was lost for me at 13.

After years of struggling (apprenticeship and evening classes) I finally passed the Cambridge Proficiency Examination with "outstanding" in all subjects, and was chosen to represent my hometown in America. Paradise regained at 22 . . . . Years earlier, at the PH in Wuppertal, Rudi Wiemann, one of my English teachers at the Realschule in Vohwinkel and English assistant at the PH, told me he had confidence in my ability to work and study. I suddenly remembered his accounts of his time at Bethel College in that strange, exciting land called U.S.A. . . I met Bob Pankratz and Katrin Frowein, who was bubbling over with enthusiasm for that place in the prairie. Prof. Harder, a Mennonite himself, and Prof. Hammelsbeck, who had been to Kansas, told me more about it.

Bethel and Co.- Summer, 1964, NEW YORK: spending days with former Bethelites in Harlem, mixing with blacks, being spat at for being white. BOSTON: spending days with Pete Trott, my exchange brother, and his family-free and easy, observing "the American way of life" in, among other places, the Trott bathroom, actually taping the sound of their electric toothbrush and sending it back home.

Then, Endstation Sehnsucht: Bethel College. I felt like a tom cat on a hot tin roof and no coke could console me (no doubt I would have made an ideal cowboy!) After the partying the more serious part of college life started: the cheerleader tryouts...and all the heat and dust were forgiven. Bethel Ho, Bethel Ho, Bethel Ho-Ho-Ho!!!

And then began the winter of my content: Shakespeare and Miss Becker ("Oh, for a cup of England!"), whole test batteries - not only for psychology and sociology but also for tennis. Multiple choice over the invention of the tennis ball . . .

I acquired something which I had never noticed in Germany or in England, at least not to that extent: private initiative. Everybody on campus seemed to be at least secretary or treasurer of some club or organization. I tried for president of the International Relations Club - and it worked. I tried for newsreader on KBCT (campus radio) - and it worked (though nobody was listening, I am sure.) I tried for Collegian, a regular column - and it

worked (at least I liked to think so). And I tried for the title role of the Sign of Jonah - and forgot all my lines for the first five minutes every night. The drama teacher developed grey hair, while I learnt to improvise in front of several hundred people... what fun...

I was tried for guest speaker at the various clubs in Newton and area and was reemployed. I was drafted into kitchen service, 3 times per day and felt like a slave, chained to a steam engine, with the cook as captain. "Stop singing those Nazi songs!" after Gordon Ratzlaff, my roommate, and I had consoled ourselves with the harmless German equivalent of "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen . . ."

Dilores Rempel, when at Wuppertal, once was "almost desperate because she wanted to do something really worthwhile." Thanks to the drive, the initiative or simply the pep, which one could pick up at Bethel as easily as the flu at Wuppertal, I cured my desperation for something worthwhile by compiling and editing 67 articles for the 15th anniversary of the Wuppertal-Bethel Exchange . . . Cooperation of the majority of the people, including all the friendly secretaries, was superb. Yet, when the project was finished I felt a moping melancholy: Paradise lost again, Bethel 1964-65 come to an end and only the janitors connected me with the past. They threw away the remnants of that most memorable year - term papers, which had sprung out of stimulating discussions; old towels with which our freshmen were blindfolded for initiation ceremonies; ribbons from the various parades and football matches; cigarette butts, symbols of defiance; umpteen boxes which had once kept all those presents which my generous American and Canadian friends had given me - - souvenirs of a time which I knew would never come back.

After Bethel I taught German for one term at Colorado College in the Rocky Mts., hitchhiked through most of the States, where I stayed with a Negro family in Memphis, Tenn., met Martin Luther King, who showed me his Nobel Peace Prize ("Don't know where I've got that thing") and for whom I translated all his letters written in German, amongst others an invitation from the church of J.S. Bach ("Can't go there because there is already too much pressure on me from militant anti-communists.")

The other side of America was represented by some millionaire in Texas with eight black maids ("Mary, tell our German visitor how much you all hate Martin Luther King!") or the down-and-outs in El Paso. (I still have to scratch myself every time I think of the night in a hostel.)

Looking through my yearbook and diaries perhaps one could say: the richest year of my life, the most rewarding, not only in terms of things seen and done, but in terms of things learnt. A process was begun at Bethel from which I am still benefitting. All my thanks to everybody who made that exchange possible.

After Bethel - Gordon, representing Bethel at Wuppertal in 1965-66, could be seen wearing a rose behind his ear, greatly encouraging me to pick roses, too, and to enjoy life to the fullest.

September, '67, in front of 49 children all desperate to get out of school. Remembering my own disastrous time as a pupil, I tried to make learning less painful by putting some pink panthers in their tanks: "This land is your land, this land is my land..." sung with movements (so they could remember the new words better). Within no time half the school went Kansan ("Oh, give me a home...") and I was asked to start a school



choir...not quite like the Vienna Boys (THank God) but much tougher, more working-class, much more honest - much more fun. Soon we had a beat band to accompany our singing - then the concerts began: in halls and the studios of W. German Radio, even national television. The only criticism from some old you-know-what, who thought the whole approach "too American." My children, at any rate, loved it, and so did their families. And to me this enjoyment of music was far more important than "purity" or "tradition".

Similarly, in my adult education teaching at Duisberg I dropped titles and formal approaches. That year in the States really had acted like a modern washing powder, driving out all that's superfluous, useless. . . The same for a slum project for almost two years. Slowly the kids began to attend classes again. An American success story, after all?

Not quite. After years - the Ruhr, teaching English, independence - I became restless, realizing that I had reached a glass wall: I could see through, but was unable to break through. After having become a "Beamter" (civil servant) I left everything behind - security, friends, former teachers (like Rudi Wiemann), former students (like Inge Gerritzen) and all those walls of glass to start a new life in my Mecca: Little Britain. The boy who would never learn English taught English to English pupils and eventually became lecturer of English literature...two years at the University of Kent at Canterbury for my B.A. Honours...one term at Oxford, and since October '75 studying for an M.A. in "Sociology of Literature" here at Essex University...accepted for another M.A. in "Applied Linguistics".

Meeting people from all over the world, being in love, reading, writing my dissertation (Distortion Through Language and Literature - The image of the German in English Short Stories) and writing poetry...everything I always wanted to do - now in the midst of it. Paradise regained?

The first quarter of a century of our exchange program has passed and I ask myself - for example, why did so many Mennonites leave Europe? Mainly, I suppose because of the intolerance of fellow Christians. I have always admired the courage shown by many Mennonites, in spite of all the opposition. In the long run it was all worth it, because today many more people seem to have realized that life can be good, if not better, in its enormous variety of human beings, ideas and life styles; active acceptance of other people's different outlook, rather than their submission under one's own set of rules and values.

Whether the once persecuted minority of Menno Simons still applies this principle today, I do not know. But the fact that most liberation movements in this century - black, gay, or women's - have had a strong support from large sections of the U.S. population, seems to be very encouraging. Perhaps it is this spirit of hope I have taken with me from Bethel College which allows me to look back, not with nostalgia, but with deeply felt thanks.

\* \* \*

Peter Trott  
Teacher: Lernsen Neusprachliches Gymnasium

Flensburgerstr. 48  
2380 Schleswig

In taking stock of one's present situation, I suppose it is natural for one to ask, "What if..?" relating to earlier events in life. I have often asked myself what I would be doing if I had not had the opportunity offered me through the exchange year at Wuppertal. Upon leaving for my year abroad I was nearing the completion of the requirements for my B.A. degree; however, the experience at Wuppertal brought me to the realization that my learning



was just beginning. Through this 12-month cultural adventure I became aware of the fact that the courses taken previously at Bethel were actually all related. The earlier pieces of my training in the humanities were flowing together to form a cohesive whole. For me a basis had been established and where there were gaps to be filled, I now knew the direction to continue on my search. This European experience had such a profound influence in helping me establish my future aims and priorities in life.

It is rather hard for me to assume that I could have gained this insight anywhere else, but because of the fulfillment obtained through my exchange year, I occasionally check myself in regarding the opportunity as something not to be taken for granted. When I ask myself, "What if..?"

Kristin Schaefer was a German girl with blond hair and blue eyes. She was intelligent, creative and had a not-to-be-forgotten sense of humor. She had future ambitions of teaching children on the elementary school level. As a member of ASTA at the Wuppertal PH, she was given the responsibility of providing for the welfare of the Bethel Exchange Student that year. Kristin is still a ravishing blond with those deep blue eyes. With her two daughters she is still making use of her creative talents utilizing her intelligence and good humour. She has been able to fulfill these ambitions of working with the young at school. And as for that Bethel exchange student, for the last seven years her last name has been "Trott."

I have heard that the operation of the program has changed in minor ways since my participation. I strongly recommend the continuation of the exchange between Bethel and Wuppertal. The depth of my experience will always keep me a participant in the program.

1965-66

Heinz van de Linde  
Studienrat; Gymnasium Teacher

Kupferdreherstr. 195  
4300 Essen - Kupferdreh 15

I left Bethel College after the summer term of '66 and participated in a students' Crossroads Conference in Colorado Springs for one week. From there I managed to get to Wyoming, thumbing for the most part. Since I had to earn sufficient money for my way back to Germany, I worked in Yellowstone National Park and in Chicago, doing office work for a German steel company.

I remember Bethel College with a sincere feeling of gratitude. I well remember the Lit. Masterpieces courses with Miss H. Becker as well as Mr. Regier's art courses - and all the others which contributed a great deal to my education. I remember the many friends who helped me along in every respect. Some highlights coming to mind: Bill Juhnke's Grandma Goering's invitation for supper, dinner or breakfast. I enjoyed her excellent Swiss/German cooking. I was lucky to experience the Loewens' hospitality in Texas. I got snowed under in a blizzard on a farm in South Dakota.

Please extend my greetings and best wishes to the faculty, alumni, and current students.

Gordon L. Ratzlaff  
Faculty of Language and Culture, Osaka University

C52-308 402-Chome  
Shinshewikitamachi  
Toyonaka City, Osaka Japan

I'm writing this letter from Montalivert, a naturalist camp of 30,000 during summer months, on the western Atlantic coast of France. Waking at 7:30 I took a short walk among the other bungalows. After 5 years of coming here each summer vacation (I'm always the only American), I'm still assured that this place is the closest to paradise that exists. The roar of the sea and the birds are the only sounds this morning. Watching the sun come up and walking barefoot on pine needles while the rest of the camp was sleeping gave me a chance to reflect on "that European experience" that started in Wuppertal and now has stretched over ten years. I'm sitting outside the bungalow at our small table on the grass to write, not a review of the kaleidoscope of countries and experiences these ten years, but a thankyou again to this exchange program that made it possible for me to escape those provincial, although well-intentioned, surroundings in which I was brought up.

I can never forget my first impression of my room-mate, the German exchangee, Henrik Eger, on Goering Hall's 2nd floor. He walked into our room, looked on my desk, and stared at a small porcelain collie dog that was given to me by my grandmother. He said in so many words: "Get rid of that 'kitsch' please. It makes me ill." Of course, having grown up in Kansas, I wasn't aware of all the ramifications of that word "kitsch", much less accustomed to hearing a pure British accent coming from a German exchange student. My sophomore year at Bethel! Not only did I get rid of the dog, and my burr haircut, I may add, but I learned all about "kitsch". We used to sit on opposite sides of our Goering Hall room and Henrik would hold up a picture post card or an art book and have me identify whether it was a Kandinsky, a Bloch, a Nolde, etc. And then to see the originals in the museum of Wuppertal that fall of 1965!

The memories of Wuppertal: the classes with Frau Prof. Ries, Prof. Blockhaus, Prof. Kirschbaum, Prof. Harder and, of course, Frau Prof. Heuser, who made it possible for "unser Gordon" to teach a course in British and American songs; Die Bierstube, walking back up "die Haardt" at night, "Studentenreisen" to Berlin, Paris, Vienna, and Prague.

Yesterday we took a respite from these two kilometers of spacious sandy beach reserved for the naturalists, and went back into the dunes to pick blackberries. We picked 3 kilos and Francoise, my wife, made ten jars of jam for the coming year. In the evening we found a wine-vineyard-castle so famous in this Medoc region, sampled and finally ordered 12 bottles of Bourdieux 1970 to take back to my father-in-law for the years to come. Today, to be spent body-surfing and taking home movies to remember this month of vacation ending tomorrow.

My wife is French, a most beautiful, graceful and elegant representative of French culture and cuisine (who said the French couldn't bake zwieback, rollkuchen, ryebread, or make kielkya or plumamoos). We met while students at the University of Tours and have a 16-month-old girl, Allicent-DeMar. We both teach at Osaka University, Francoise teaching French, and I teach English and American Lit. Two years ago I was fortunate enough to teach Gandhi's Autobiography of Truth, works by Thoreau, and some articles on Mennonites and Quakers.



Our goal next summer is to spend some time in Wuppertal-Barmen and "Schwebbahn" ourselves into the homes of some of our friends for "Kaffee und Kuchen".

"Zum Wohl!" to the year 2001, another 25 years Bethel-Wuppertal!

1966-67

*Ruth Friesen (Nickel)*  
Teacher; Housewife

Box 9, Freeman Jr. College  
Freeman, South Dakota 57029

Since my year in Wuppertal, I graduated from Bethel in '68. The following year I was a graduate student at UMKC - member of the teacher corps. In the summer of 1969 Tom and I were married and left almost immediately for S. America. We spent about 4 months in language study in Costa Rica learning Spanish, and then went to Bolivia as the first TAP'ers in S. America. After our two years in Bolivia, we returned to the U.S., moved several times while Tom continued study and I took care of our two daughters. Now we're getting ready for our 3rd year at FJC, where I'll be teaching German and Spanish.

I strongly support exchange programs like this one. A big advantage of the Wuppertal exchange is that there aren't other American students at the PH. One is forced to become a part of the German student body. Getting to know another culture is a great advantage. One's tolerance for other ways and ideas increases. It seems that if more people could have similar experiences, even international understanding could be much improved.

\* \* \*

*Ulrike Hartwig (Belzer)*  
Housewife and Mother; English and German Teacher

Hermannstr. 13  
5630 Emscheid 11

To write about my year at Bethel is almost impossible. I wouldn't really know what to choose among the many highlights, experiences, friendships, and also problems. Going to Bethel and living there for a year means the time in my life when I learned most, a time I would never want to miss. That is why I think the program should definitely be continued for even those who return disappointed have learned. . . Bethel also meant returning home after the year, getting adjusted to life at home again. This kept the learning process going, for it was then that I learned most about my country. . . Going to Bethel means returning to the U.S. to meet friends again and learn some more.

Thus we, my husband and two children, Nils 4 and Dörte 2, still have a very close contact with friends which made us travel to the U.S. twice already, once with our son, to see friends and exchange thoughts. So the friendships started at Bethel have not only lasted but grown. Now we are planning to send our children to Bethel - thus keeping on learning, exchanges, new experiences and new friendships.

1967-68

*Walter Epp*  
Teacher

Box 415, Rosthern Jr. College  
Rosthern, Sask. Canada

The most enduring benefit of my year in Wuppertal has been the contacts made there and maintained over the years.



The year of studies afforded me the opportunity to travel extensively throughout Europe, including trips to Russia and Israel.

My experience in Germany and the interests that it evoked became the basis of my vocation. I went on to graduate school to study German, taught for three years in Switzerland, and am presently teaching German here in Canada.

I feel the program should be continued and possibly expanded.

\* \* \*

*Karl Heinz Wilhelm*  
Teacher

*Uellendahlerstr. 15*  
*56-Wuppertal-Elberfeld*

Leider fehlt mir augenblicklich die Zeit! HERZLICHE GRÜSSE!

1968-69

*Gregory J. Stucky*  
Law Student

*2331 Alabama*  
*Lawrence, KS 66044*

My wife Susan (B.A. Bethel, '71) and I after graduation entered the TAP (Teachers Abroad Program) under MCC and taught in Zaïre, Africa, for 2 years, after completing a year of French language training in Brussels, Belgium. After completing this 3-year program we began graduate study. I will receive my law degree in spring, '77, and my wife (who has completed a Master's Degree in Linguistics at KU) intends to begin work on her PhD. in Bantu linguistics at the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana) next fall.

Peter Blobel visited the U.S. last summer with his wife and spent several days with us. We see Cornelia-Krahn-Olsen frequently, since she and her husband attend KU and are also active in the Mennonite Fellowship at Lawrence. We also occasionally see Pete Preheim.

1969-70

*Carolyn Cox*  
Mental Health/Social Services

*51 Craigie St.*  
*Somerville, MA 02143*

In my first year after college I studied at Harvard Divinity School. I spent the next two years in VS in Denver, directing a volunteer community agency, getting my first taste of backpacking, and living with other Bethel people. In Sept. '75 I returned to Divinity School with an eye to sharpening my counseling skills - and also to enjoy the tremendous cultural richness of the Boston area. At present I am volunteering as a counselor and trainer of other volunteers in the Cambridge drug program.

I returned to Germany once after my exchange year - the summer of '71 and again stayed with the family of Gabriele Einicke and worked in Ulm.

Highlights of my exchange year were trips to other countries and getting to know a few American students in the Brethren Junior Year Abroad program at Marburg. With another PH student I went to Israel for 3 weeks. We worked on a kibbutz for 2 weeks and traveled around the country the remainder of our stay. With this same student (from Prof. Dahm's "Arbeitskreis") I made an extended tour of churches and cathedrals in southern Germany, Switzerland, and northern Italy. The 25 of us interminably sang

German folksongs, esp. canons, during the days' busrides. We camped along the way and took time to go to the opera in an ancient amphitheater in Verona, to explore the shops and canals of Venice, and to enjoy one or two grand meals in nice sidewalk restaurants.

I visited Marburg 2-3 times, getting to know another "breed" of German student, and developing some small sense of the German university tradition. With an American friend I made a two-week hitchhiking excursion through Denmark and Sweden immediately before returning to the U.S.

My favorite activity with other students at the PH was to wander down that torturous little path to the "Waldschlösschen" (since torn down, I was disappointed to hear) and to spend a warm evening outside in the "Biergarten".

I think the exchange program was at a particularly low point at the time I was at Wuppertal. The benefits to individual students were still considerable, but neither student body, as a group, showed much interest in the program per se. Many students, both at Bethel and at the PH, were not even aware that this program existed. My last few visits to Bethel have given me the impression that both enthusiasm and awareness have increased markedly regarding the exchange. Since it is a program with much unique potential, thanks to its unique history, I would favor its continuation with a constant emphasis on extending the benefits of cross-cultural contact throughout both student bodies.

1971-72

*Michael Albrecht*  
High School Teacher

*Hillsbergerstr. 3*  
*5630 Remscheid 11*

After my Bethel year I returned to complete my studies. In '74 I passed the first and in '76 the second teacher's exam, which now entitles me to teach without the guidance of another experienced teacher. Besides my professional activities I am still very much engaged in the training of riflery.

In October '76 I expect to go to Iceland and New York with a group, whom I have not yet met. In New York we will stay at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel - my first chance to visit the U.S. again after 5 years.

To Bethel College I wish all the best and hope to be able to visit again in the near future.

\* \* \*

*Peter C. Preheim*  
Production Controller, Mechanex Corp.

*3640 S. Fox*  
*Englewood, Colo. 80110*

Since graduating from Bethel (May, '73) I've spent over a year in SW Kansas as a farm laborer and a year and a half in Denver, where I'm now employed.

My most unforgettable experience in Wuppertal was when I still had not mastered the use of "Du" or the "Sie" forms of speech. I was visiting Peter Blobel's home and his mother when I addressed her with a "Du" said, turning to Peter with a smile, "Er ist so lieb."



I think the exchange should be continued, although instead of having a double exchange with Wuppertal, it should be a single and perhaps a single with another German school. I was glad there were no Americans for me to talk to while I was in Wuppertal.

1972-73

*Patricia Stucky*  
*Elementary Teacher*

415 Harrison  
Newton, KS. 67114

Since graduating from Bethel I have spent most of my time in the elementary classroom. Although this coming year I will have a regular third grade classroom, for the past two years I have been working with children who have special reading problems.

During vacations I have spent time on my parent's farm, worked part-time at a Newton hospital, and also traveled when I could. In fact, last summer a close friend from Wuppertal came to Kansas to visit and we traveled together for a month in the U.S.

Trying to recall that school year brings back many fine memories... how could I forget that very first German lecture, for after only a half hour of listening, I was mentally exhausted and totally ignored the rest of the lecture. And I remember the "Praktikum" in the elementary school under Prof. Heuser. Though scared, I took my turn as a student teacher in the 3rd grade. I also remember how brilliant I thought all German children were - they could already speak German so well. And how many times I caused people to try to be polite and hold back laughter at least a bit - such as the time I wanted to take some friends out for dinner, only I used the term "ausnehmen". And that Wuppertal weather - I learned quickly to take my umbrella with me at all times. However, I remember one time when I didn't. It was a hot day with no rain in sight, so a friend and I went swimming. But on our way home it started to rain and by the time we got home we were soaked. But the most vivid memories of all are of friends and their families - the evening walks in the beautiful Wuppertal Park, the weekend trips to neighboring cities with other "Studentenheim" friends, or traveling to visit parents or grandparents of close friends and being treated as part of the family.

Should the exchange program be continued? I can only write an emphatic yes. It is through the Wuppertal program that I was able to gain lifelong memories and friends - friends who have taught me much about myself, their culture, and even my own culture. Such an experience contributed tremendously to my education.

1973-74

*Bärbel Gemke*  
*Teacher; First Exam Certificate*

Akazienweg 3  
565 Solingen

Right now I'm planning my wedding (July 16, '76). I hope to be able to visit the U.S. and Bethel College area in particular some day with my husband because the year I spent there still means so much to me. Taking part in the exchange program was one of the most valuable experiences in my life. I can only hope it will be continued in the future. I'm still very grateful for the friendship offered at Bethel; also while visiting with families not only in Kansas but also in South Dakota and California.



Upon my return to Wuppertal University, I missed the Bethel atmosphere, its activities, the spirit of community and sharing. Therefore I'm always glad to receive news from my "old" friends and I hope we'll be able to receive guests from Bethel as we did when we welcomed the Bethel College Choir last year.

As to the continuation of the program, I would like to propose that the exchange student participate in some field placement outside Bethel because looking back I see the Interterm period I spent in Kansas City as most interesting - where I had the chance to observe Barnes House, a community school in a very low income area.

1974-75

*Stanley Buller*

107½ W. 26th

*Student, completing Teacher Certification*

N. Newton, KS. 67117

For me the most exciting aspect of spending a year in Wuppertal was the opportunity to meet and make friends with new people - people who had grown up in a different culture and with different values than my own. Learning a new language made making friendships a real challenge.

My most memorable experiences are the ski trip with PH students, a trip to Kempten in Bayern to make hay, a week in Berlin and the Sunday afternoon walks in spring and summer . . . all this and my time in the Studentenheim made the year and many people very special for me.

\* \* \*

*Michelle Friesen Carper*

Box 115

*Mennonite Western District Youth Worker  
and Education Coordinator*

N. Newton, KS 67117

Being a student at Wuppertal was certainly one of the highlights of my college years. Trying to summarize the most meaningful events is really difficult, but I will try.

1) It was so good to be in another country, another culture, speaking a new language, interacting with people who didn't have your basic "Mennonite foundation". Being exposed to that different value system was a very growing and worthwhile experience.

2) I got close to a family that lived near Heidelberg in a little village called Oschenbach. There I experienced what small village and family life is like. I keep in contact with these people and last fall ('76) my parents were also able to visit them.

3) Student life was very exciting. First semester studies were difficult because of the language, but by second semester things were different. I understood the mind-set and the language.

4) I had an especially good semester break experience. I spent 3 weeks working in a Children's Home and 2 weeks learning to ski in the Swiss Alps, along with a trip to Vienna and a weekend with friends in the Black Forest. It was at this time that I really developed confidence in the language and myself. It made second semester a different story.

I wish Bethel would develop more programs like this so students could get away from what they're so used to and experience some of the rest of the world.

\* \* \*

*Silvia Hasenkamp*  
Student

*Heckinghauser Str. 79*  
*56 Wuppertal 2*

I think very much of this program; I learned a lot during my year and had such good experiences. For my language study it proved very valuable. I think it should continue as it is now - two students going to and fro.

The highlight of my time was the discovery that the ancient cabinet organ belonging to Bethel College was built by the Great-Great-Grandfather of my Grandmother. This was terribly exciting!

\* \* \*

*Karen-Martina Hermann*  
Student; Assistant in English Dept.

*Finkenweg 45*  
*5603 Wülfrath-Düsseldorf*

Presently I am pretty much engaged in my studies since I have to write my so-called exam paper ("Hausarbeit für das Erste Staatsexamen für das Lehramt am Gymnasium"). I have to do quite a lot of research since my topic is so specific and there is not much literature about it to help me in this respect. But it is quite a lot of fun.

Since my minor is geography I enjoyed it very much having the chance to get to know quite a lot about the United States. I travelled quite a lot during the time I stayed in Kansas.

I am still grateful that I could accompany the Bethel College Chorale at last year's tour in Europe. I still like to remember the two weeks we toured in Europe very much. I grew so much closer to all of them including the people we met together.

I enjoyed my time at Bethel and know I gained quite a lot during that time, in various ways.

I definitely think one should continue this program...living in another country...expressing myself in a foreign language quite fluently, even to think in this language...helping me to cope with the demands in my future profession. I will be teaching English in a grammar school.

1975-76

*Max Stucky*  
Student

*Woodgate Apts. (1013)*  
*5400 E. 21st. Wichita, KS. 67208*

I consider my year at Wuppertal as the most worthwhile, educational year ever. In my year there I have learned more about the European way of life, the German student, and myself. The most important are the friendships formed while there...definitely the most beneficial learning experience.

I feel the continuation of the exchange program is a definite must. I think perhaps a short orientation would be of great help...I see the future of this program much more important than the past.



1976-77

*Egbert Froese and Werner Luthner**Bethel College, N. Newton, KS.*

The exchange program today - idealistic romanticism or  
pragmatical functionalism ?

25 years ago the program was founded. A good program that gave both countries the opportunity to exchange individuals in order to reestablish peaceful coexistence on an individual level. The program went on, was expanded, and became a normal factor in the life of the two institutions.

But unnoticed, somehow cryptic, changes occurred and the question is - what makes the program today attractive for the students?

### Different attitudes

Bethel College is still an oasis of romanticism of a religious minority community and thus influenced by anachronistic traditionalisms which seem peculiar and odd to the foreign visitor. But not only this, the location itself is quite different. Farmland with its typical conservative attitudes, suburban settlements as manifestations of capitalism dictate the whole atmosphere not only in the community but also in the college. Tuition is a good indication for this (Bethel has one of the highest tuition rates in Kansas). The academic standards are not as splendid as they could be, and the exchange student might actually lose one year of his/her studies. (Especially the complete lack of a linguistic department is worth mentioning).

Wuppertal, on the other hand, might turn out as a disaster for the Bethel student. Completely different academic standards, highly polluted industrial town, isolation, and an overwhelming political interest among students which goes along with a certain anti-religious attitude, might depress the Bethel student.

All this should show the polarization of the two programs and should also illustrate the difficulties students will meet and have to cope with.

The first question therefore has to be readjusted. We should ask what keeps the program going? or better:

### Idealistic romanticism or pragmatic functionalism?

There is a history of the exchange program. Bethel students grow up with it and even high school students know about it. During a visit to Moundridge High School a girl stated, "I want to go to Bethel because of the exchange program". Astonishing! On the other side, Wuppertal. Only few people are even aware that such a program exists. The student body is quantitative too big to take account of two students leaving for Bethel.

Every Anglistic/Americanistic student in Germany has to spend at least 3-4 months in England or the U.S.A; normally students go to England or they join in one of the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) programs. If they do not pass the tests of the DAAD, they sometimes ask for alternatives and then suddenly Bethel emerges.

It is a shame, but true, after 25 years the program is as wellknown as the Cotton Bowl, i.e. not at all. What is an old tradition in Bethel is a pragmatical process in Wuppertal.



## The future

To awaken the "sleeping beauty" is therefore the major task. What the program needs is not nostalgic attitudes and more than the pure pragmatical aspects. It needs life and commitment. Therefore, we need more and better information on both sides, academic staff that is interested in the program and in personal contacts in order to reform and readjust the program. That might be the only chance to expand the lifetime of the program and to save it from stagnation and decay which will lead to annihilation and destruction, and nobody could be interested in that.

*written by Egbert Froese*

\* \* \*

1975-1976

The following is a quote from a personal letter to Debbie Hunsberger and is being reprinted at her discretion without having received permission of the writers. We hope they won't mind too much . . .

"Zunächst vielen Dank für Deine Post. Wir (Elisabeth und ich) haben ein wirklich schlechtes Gewissen, dass wir noch nicht eher was von uns hören liessen. Verzeih, aber die Umstände nach einer Rückkehr aus dem Ausland sind anders als man es sich vorstellen mag. Du weisst das sicherlich aus eigener Erfahrung; man muss sich wieder umstellen, sich neu anpassen, alte Freundschaften neu aufbauen, u.s.w. - - Wir halten zwar beide Bethel in sehr guter Erinnerung, wir haben aber zunächst einmal Abstand gewinnen wollen. - - Oft wollten wir mit dem nächsten Flugzeug wieder nach Kansas, wir hatten regelrecht "Heimweh" nach allem was wir bei Euch zurückliessen. Bethel ist wirklich ein schönes, ein beneidenswertes Stückchen Erde; wenn man vom Leistungsdruck am College absieht, ist es noch ein kleines "Studentenparadies", vor allem, wenn man Bethel mit der Gesamthochschule Wuppertal vergleicht. Natürlich ist auch bei Euch nicht alles rosig (ich habe selbst negative Dinge wie Selbstmordversuch, Rape, Saufereien, Diebstahl gesehen), doch insgesamt können Bethel-Studenten von Glück sprechen, ein solches College zu haben und in einem so weiten Land zu leben. Der blaue Himmel und überhaupt das Kansas Klima bleibt eine der sehr schönen Erinnerungen."

- Elisabeth Henke-Röper
- Franz-Josef Bürger

## LATEST AVAILABLE ADDRESSES OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS . . .

1956-57

- Christiane Renger (Klein)* - Maintenstr. 285, 53 Bonn-Bad Godesberg  
*Eldred Thierstein* - 1303 Lago, Frankfort, Ky. 40601

1957-58

- Karin Mühlen* - Am Thurn 25, 56 Wuppertal-Sonnborn

1959-60

- Barbara Chang (Schmidt)* - 1056 S. 4th, Apt. 2, Pocatello, Idaho  
 82301

1961-62

- Ruth M. White (Ewy)* - 305 E. Cedar, Hesston, KS. 67062

1962-63

- Mary Wilson (Janzen)* - 5534 Kimbark, Chicago, Ill. 60637

1968-69

- Gabriele Einicke* - Hauptstr. 86, 5285 Bielstein  
 Parsevalstr. 18, 56 Wuppertal 2

1969-70

- Ingeborg Gerritzen* - Karl-Lehr-Str. 188, 41 Duisberg

1970-71

- Peter Blobel* - Stockderstr. 30, 563 Remscheid  
 Friedrich Engels Allee, 56 Wuppertal 2

- Cornelia Krahn-Olsen* - 1113 W. 10th St. Lawrence, KS. 66044

1972-73

- Anneliese Görres* - Bergstr. 144d, 5071 Blecher/erberich

1973-74

- Timothy E. Schrag* - Comissao Central Memonita, Caixa Postal  
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1975-76

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1976-77

- Egbert Fröse* - Berlinerstr. 100, 56 Wuppertal 2  
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*Kathryn Thieszen* - 203 S. Washington, Moundridge, KS. 67107

*25th Anniversary Celebration*

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*Committee Members*

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*Dr. David C. Wedel, Chairman*

*Erna J. Fast, Secretary*

*The Rev. Roland R. Goering, Office of the  
Alumni Association*

*Deborah Hunsberger, Dept. of Modern Languages*

*Stanley Buller, Treasurer*

*Michelle Friesen Carper*

*Egbert Froese*

*Marcus Loganbill*

*Werner Luthner*





Erna Fast in post-war Germany doing relief work



Prof. Hammelsback, Prof. Harder, Otto Driedger: square dance at Wuppertal

Karin Mühlen graduation at Bethel 1958



**Front cover:**

1. Gesamt Hochschule Wuppertal
2. Administration Building at Bethel College

**Back cover:**

3. Aerial view of the Bethel Campus
4. Studentheim Wuppertal



Reunion Advent 1958 at the Friedewald's



Professor Inge Heuser



Gordon Ratzlaff and Henrik Eger





Stan Buller, Ray Reimer and Annelie Görres celebrate Christmas in Wuppertal



Turn Halle and Bismarck Turm in Wuppertal

Students enjoy an evening meal on the veranda







Carol Schmidt and Kathy Thiesen, 25th year exchange students to Wuppertal

(L) Egbert Froese and Werner Luthner, 25th year exchange students to Bethel



Path in the garden next to the Gesamt Hochschule, Wuppertal







